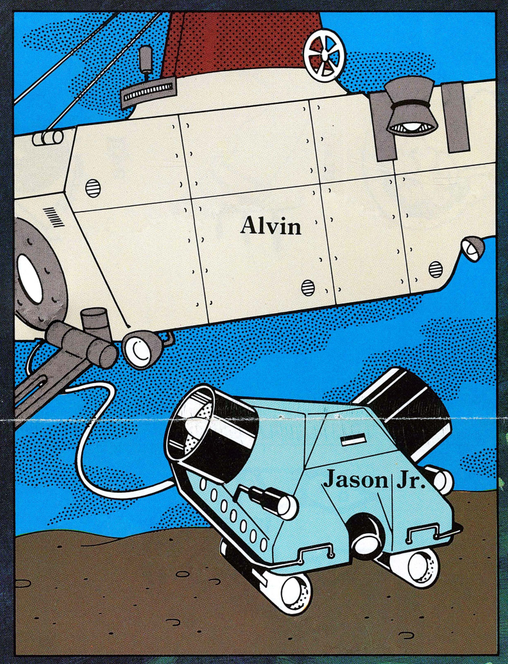
THE Swimming Eyeball

What is the "Swimming Eyeball"? It's an underwater ROBOT! It is really named Jason Jr., but scientists call it a swimming eyeball because it uses cameras to "see" into underwater places where humans cannot go.

Jason Jr. is famous for taking some of the first pictures of the shipwrecked *Titanic* in July of 1986. That's Jason Jr. exploring the *Titanic* in the picture below! Jason Jr. had to "swim" 12,500 feet below the surface of the ocean to reach the *Titanic*. But Jason wasn't alone down there. The robot was connected by a 250-foot-long electrical cable to a special submarine. The submarine holds three people; one of them uses a joystick to operate Jason Jr. The joystick is made up of microchips that send signals through the cable to Jason Jr. The signals tell microchips inside Jason where to make the robot go next and what to take pictures of with Jason's cameras.

In the future, scientists will be able to program Jason Jr. before it goes for a "swim." Then, when they put Jason in the water, it will already know where to go!

Jason Jr. and one of the scientists it works with.



Jason Jr. is connected by cable to a submarine named Alvin.

Diagram by Philip Scheuer
Photo by Steve Liss/Time Magazine
Poster art by Joel Naprstek
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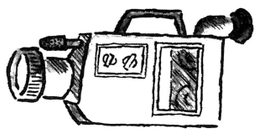
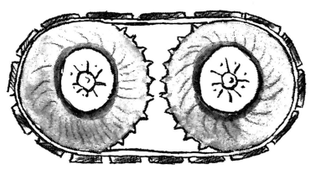
ROBOT PARTS

DIRECTIONS: Robots have parts that do jobs just like our body parts do. Draw a line from the robot part to the body part that is most like it.



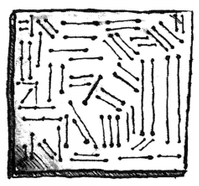
Camera

Feet

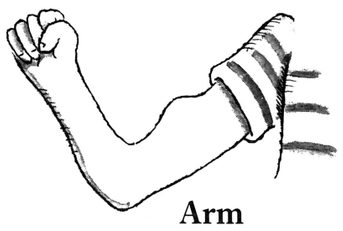


Wheels

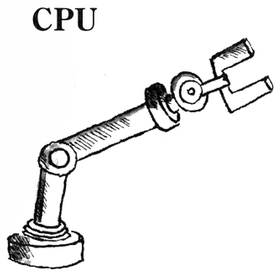
Eye



CPU



Arm



Mechanical arm

Brain

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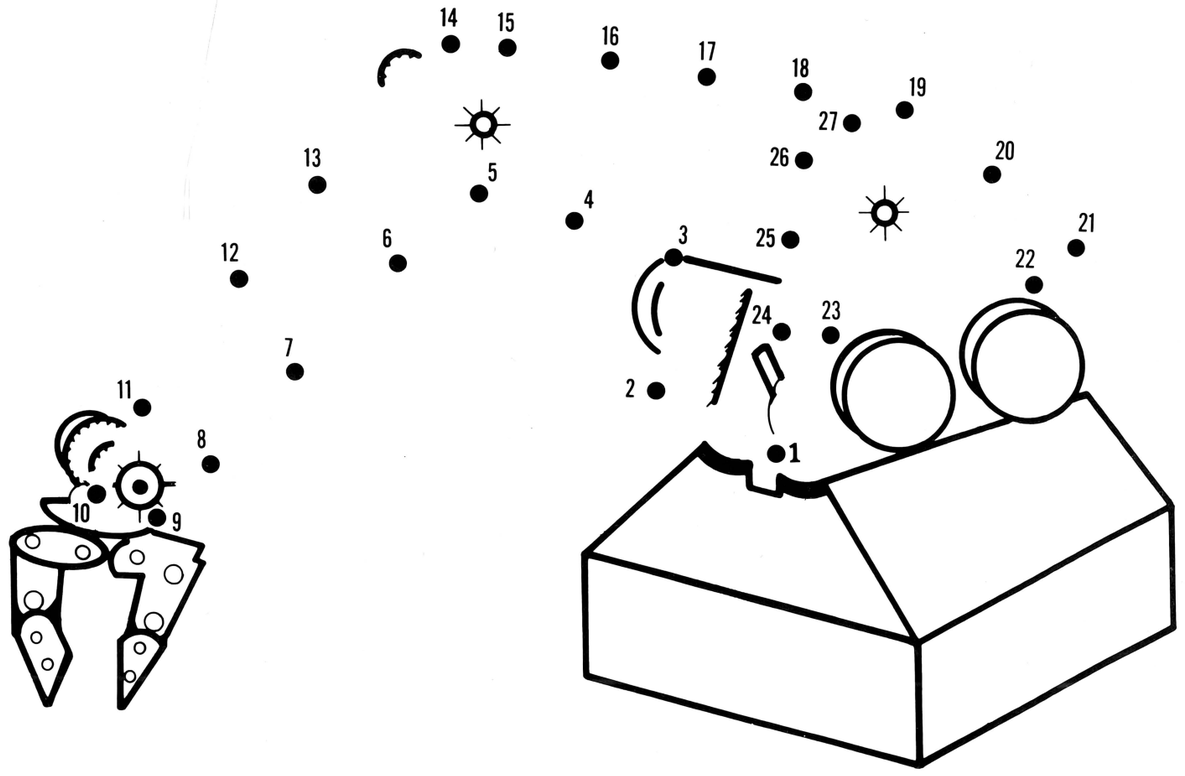
CONNECT THE DOTS

DIRECTIONS: Some robots are made to lift things. Connect the dots to see what one of these robots might look like.



FILL IN THE BLANKS:
The robot looks like my _____ _____ _____.

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SPEED E. ROBOT

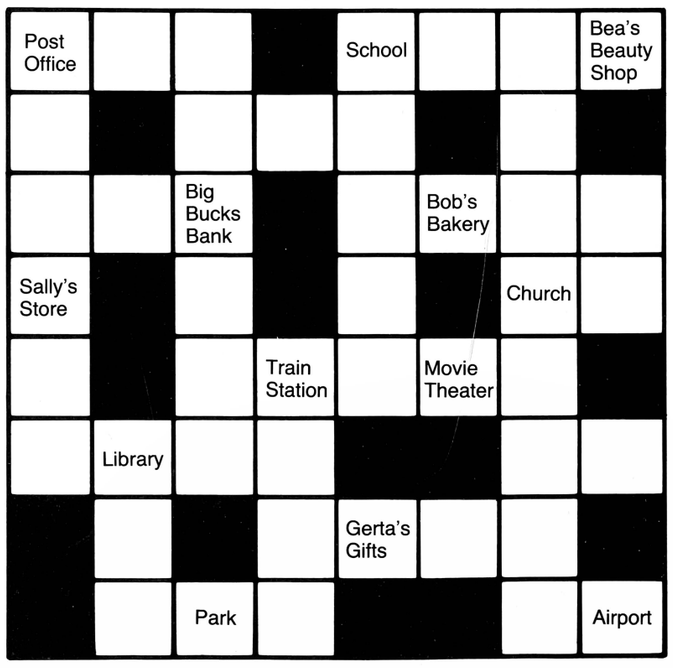
DIRECTIONS: Speed E. Robot is a messenger. He takes letters and packages from place to place — super fast. But Speed E. can't find these places by himself; he needs a programmer to tell him where to make deliveries.

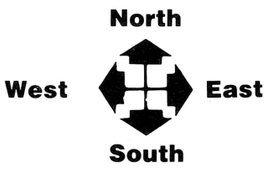
Right now, Speed E. is at the post office. One way to make him take a letter from the post office to Big Bucks Bank is to give him these commands.:

GO EAST 2 BLOCKS GO SOUTH 2 BLOCKS

Your job is to program Speed E. to take messages all around Chip Town. He can go north, south, east, or west. He cannot move diagonally and he cannot cross over the dark squares.

Chip Town





1. Write commands for Speed E. to go from Big Bucks Bank to Gerta's Gifts.

_____

_____

_____

2. Write commands for Speed E. to go from Gerta's Gifts to Bob's Bakery, without passing through the train station.

_____

_____

3. Write commands for Speed E. to go from Bob's Bakery to Bea's Beauty Shop and back again.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Write commands for Speed E. to go from Bob's Bakery to Sally's Store. He should pass through the train station, but not the library.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BONUS: Someone else gave Speed E. these commands: GO NORTH 3 BLOCKS, GO EAST 2 BLOCKS, GO SOUTH 5 BLOCKS, GO EAST 1 BLOCK, GO SOUTH 2 BLOCKS, GO WEST 1 BLOCK. If Speed E. starts at Sally's Store, where will he end up?

_____

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WHAT'S YOUR ROBOT I.Q.?

DIRECTIONS: Are you "smarter" than the average robot user? Take this quiz and find out! In the blanks provided, answer true or false for each question.

True or False:

_____ 1. Only scientists can build robots.

_____ 2. Robots can think on their own.

_____ 3. Transformers and Go-Bots are real robots.

_____ 4. Some robots can see where they're going.

_____ 5. Robots are controlled by computers.

_____ 6. All robots must be kept dry.

_____ 7. Most modern robots are used to perform simple jobs in factories.

_____ 8. All robots have arms, legs, and heads like humans.

_____ 9. Robots are afraid of dangerous jobs.

_____ 10. Some robots can be hooked up to personal computers.

SCORE
1-3 correct: Check your circuits and take the quiz again.
4-6 correct: Not bad, but you could use a robot tutor.
7-9 correct: Great! You really know your robots.
10 correct: You're a ROBO-GENIUS!

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